

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Reverend James R. Grimes, Sr., on the celebration of his 90th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should recognize citizens who are celebrating milestones in their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, Reverend James R. Grimes, Sr., celebrated his 90th birthday on May 9, 1995, an occasion that was commemorated with great joy in remembering the past, giving thanks for the present and eagerly anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, born on May 9, 1904, in Medon, Tennessee, James R. Grimes is a 1928 graduate of Merry High School, where he played football; he next attended Tennessee A&I State College; and

WHEREAS, in 1929, James R. Grimes was joined in holy matrimony with Ocie Bell Merriweather, and the couple's happy union has produced eight children, LaVera, Doris Ann, James Jr., Albert Burnette, Ray Forrest, John Griffin, Dewey and Harold Dillon; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Grimes has served the Lord and His children with dignity and compassion as an ordained Baptist minister for 70 remarkable years, and he holds the distinction of being the oldest active black minister in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long and exemplary career as a man of the cloth, Rev. Grimes has tended the flocks of several congregations, including Mt. Pleasant Church, the New Zeal Church, which he served for over 24 years, and St. John Missionary Church, which he served for more than 26 years; and

WHEREAS, this astute gentleman has also served his fellow ministers with acumen and alacrity as co-organizer and dean of the Hardeman County Minister's Association; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Grimes' favorite sermon is "The New Birth - Born Again", based on John 3:7, because it reaffirms his robust belief in our Savior, Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 1995, Rev. Grimes was honored with a 90th birthday celebration in Bolivar, and on this very special occasion, the honoree's favorite song, "Because He Lives" was led by Sister Chesterine Goodlow of St. John's Baptist Church of Savannah; and

WHEREAS, his sprightly behavior and alert demeanor belie his 90 years on this earth; and

WHEREAS, the members of this body find it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to specially recognize one of Tennessee's finest citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and congratulate Rev. James R. Grimes, Sr., on the celebration of his 90th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for many happy returns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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